GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4335
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2010
NATIONAL WATERWAYS AND IWAI
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Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Waterways developed and operational in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is suffering due to official apathy on account of lack of manpower and funds to maintain Inland Waterways in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to strengthen IWAI on the line of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) by developing a pool of technical people and other infrastructure facilities to enable it to function effectively; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government for developing Inland Waterways in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY)

(a): Five National Waterways have been declared as National Waterways in the country.

The details are given below:

(i) National Waterway-1: Allahabad-Haldia stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river (1620 Km) declared as NW in 1986 in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

(ii) National Waterway-2: Sadiya-Dhubri stretch of the Brahmaputra river (891 Km) declared as NW in 1988 in the state of Assam.

(iii) National Waterway-3: Kollam-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal and Champakara and Udyogmandal canals (205 Km) declared as NW in 1993 in the state of Kerala.

(iv) National Waterway-4: Kakinada-Pudducherry stretch of canals and Kaluvelly tank, Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry stretch of river Godavari and Wazirabad-Vijayawada stretch of river Krishna (1078 Km) declared as NW in 2008 in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry.

(v) National Waterway-5: Talcher-Dhamra stretch of Brahmani river, Geonkhali-Charbatia stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-Dhamra stretch of Matai river and Mahanadi delta rivers (588 Km) declared as NW in 2008 in the states of West Bengal and Orissa.

Out of these National Waterways developmental works are being carried out by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) on the first three National Waterways and they are operational. Work has been initiated for development of selected stretches of the other two National Waterways through PPP mode.

(b) & (c): Since formation of IWAI in 1986 the total investment by Government for development and maintenance of National Waterways is around Rs. 975 cr. (upto October, 2010). In 2009-10 allocation to IWAI has been enhanced to Rs.129.85 cr. from Rs.110.00 cr. at RE stage and this year (2010-11) a RE proposal of Rs.156.87 cr. has been made against BE of Rs.115.00 cr. On a reference for additional funds for development of newly created National Waterways, Planning Commission informed that at this stage of 11th Plan, it may not be possible to increase outlay of IWT substantially and suggested development of national waterways under PPP mode with viability gap funding. In November, 2010 Government has sanctioned 5 senior/ middle level technical posts for setting up of a "Project Monitoring Unit" for development of NW-4 and NW-5 under PPP mode.

(d): There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to strengthen IWAI on the lines of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

(e): Various projects for development and maintenance of IWT related infrastructure namely navigational channel, navigational aids and terminals have been undertaken by IWAI on National Waterways 1, 2 & 3 during the current plan period. In NW-1 a low level RCC Jetty has been constructed at Patna and construction of high level Jetty is in progress. Construction of fixed terminals are underway at Kolkata and Varanasi. Besides floating terminals are available at 16 places. A fairway with 3m/2.5m/2m depth is being developed and maintained for NW-1 for a period of about 330 days in a year. 24 hours. navigation aids provided in Tribeni − Varanasi stretch in NW-1. DGPS Station is already commissioned at Bhagalpur and work on DGPS Station is in progress at Patna.

In NW-2 a low level RCC Jetty has been constructed at Pandu and construction of high level Jetty is in progress. Besides, floating terminals are available at 7 places. A fairway with 2.5 m/2 m depth is being developed and maintained for NW-2 for a period of about 330 days in a year. 24 hours navigation aids provided in Dhubri− Dibrugarh stretch in NW-2

In NW-3 fixed RCC terminals constructed at 7 places and work is in progress at one more location. Besides, Ro-Ro terminals constructed at Bolghatty and Willingdon Island for connectivity with Vallarpadam International Container Transhipment Terminal. A fairway with 2m depth is being developed in Kottapuram− Alappuzha stretch of NW-3. 24 hours navigation aids provided for the entire stretch of NW-3.